



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,518	12/19/2001	David L. Gilmore	OTD-030348-US	6324

7590 08/16/2005

Cooper Cameron Corporation
P. O. Box 1212
Houston, TX 77251-2211

EXAMINER

MILLER, WILLIAM L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3677

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,518

Applicant(s)

GILMORE, DAVID L.

Examiner

William L. Miller

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-14, 16-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

520

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed 06-09-2005 has been entered. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 6, 7, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strom et al. (US#4223896).
4. Regarding claim 6, Strom discloses a seal assembly for a telescoping joint (col. 3, line 23) comprising: a first 10 and second 14 nested tubular members slidably mounted with respect to each other and defining an annular space therebetween; at least one seal 13, supported by one of said tubular members 10 and sealingly spanning said annular space, said seal having a longitudinal axis and opposed ends and being compressed to said tubular member 10 retaining it in a direction substantially aligned with its longitudinal axis (the opposed ends are in direct contact with corresponding walls of member 10 thereby inherently providing the claimed compression (Fig. 3)); said compression of said seal 13 is due to an interference fit in groove 12 of said tubular member 10 retaining it; and said portion of said seal 13 that spans said annular space further comprises a sealing surface having an upper 17 and a lower 18 end and where at least one of said ends 17 is beveled with respect to said longitudinal axis.

Art Unit: 3677

5. Regarding claim 7, Strom discloses the bevel angle as “about” 30 degrees (col. 3, lines 37-38) which is being viewed as “about” 15 degrees.

6. Regarding claim 15, the beveled end is integrally beveled and therefore without any cantilevered component.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-5, 8-14, and 16-20 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

8. Regarding claim 1, the applicant argues Housas and Strom both fail to disclose the seal spanning the space when activated by a force applied to the seal through the tubular member supporting the seal. This argument is persuasive as in both Housas and Strom, the seal spans the space when activated by a force applied to the seal through the tubular member which is not supporting the seal.

9. Regarding claim 6, the applicant argues Strom fails to disclose compression of the seal 13, much less an interference fit. The examiner disagrees as the direct contact between the seal 13 and the walls of the groove 12 inherently results in a degree of seal compression and a degree of interference between the seal and groove.

10. Regarding claims 6 and 15, the applicant argues Strom fails to disclose a beveled end of the sealing surface. The examiner disagrees as surfaces 17 and 18 of Strom collectively define the sealing surface, while portion 17 is the upper end thereof, and portion 18 is the lower end thereof. Upper end portion 17 is clearly beveled (slanted) with respect to the longitudinal axis of the seal.

Art Unit: 3677

11. Regarding claims 6 and 15, the applicant argues the tubular members of Strom are telescoped to make the assembly, but do not represent a telescoping joint once assembled. However, claims 6 and 15 are not currently limited to a telescoping joint after assembly, and in any event, the applicant is reminded method limitations are given little patentable weight in an article claim as the patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. See MPEP 2113. The telescoping of the tubular members of Strom during assembly thereof meets the current claim limitations. Note col. 3, line 23, “telescoped pipe elements”.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

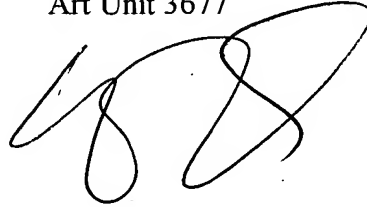
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7068. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday.

Art Unit: 3677

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

William L. Miller
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'W' and 'M' joined together, with a large loop at the end.

WLM